

Interages has so fully come to represent. Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in commending the founder of Interages, Austin Heyman; Interages' current copresidents, Jean Linehan and Robert Shoenberg, and all of Interages' dedicated volunteers and workers, on 10 years of exceptional service and in wishing them success in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 7, 1996, during consideration of H.R. 3019, the Balanced Budget Downpayment Act, I mistakenly voted "nay" on the Lowey amendment.

This amendment would have deleted the bill's provision permitting States to decide whether to use Medicaid funds to pay for an abortion in the case of rape or incest. Had the amendment passed, it would have retained the current law which requires that States fund abortions in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the woman.

My vote against the Lowey amendment was purely accidental. I have always been and will continue to be 100 percent supportive of a woman's right to choose.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF TOWN OF MERRIMACK, NH

HON. WILLIAM H. ZELIFF, JR.

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. ZELIFF. Mr. Speaker, let me extend my sincerest congratulations to the town of Merrimack, NH, as it celebrates its 250th anniversary on April 2, 1996. It is a pleasure to commemorate such a milestone event and recognize this New England village.

The people of Merrimack have preserved the town's historic past and traditions. Once known for timber and agricultural trade, Merrimack has welcomed new industries that promote technology and future expansion. In the 1980's, Merrimack was one of the fastest growing towns in New Hampshire. This town serves as an economical, industrial, and social tie between New Hampshire's two largest cities, Manchester and Nashua. Though these changes have occurred, Merrimack has not lost its identity and still attracts travelers to its recreational settings and scenic beauties.

I have had the opportunity to work with the people of Merrimack on a number of important issues over the last few years. I appreciate the willingness of the residents to speak frankly and honestly about issues that affect the town. These people are hard working and always concerned with what is best for their community.

Statewide, Merrimack is well known for being a close-knit, informed, and caring community symbolizing the best that New Hampshire has to offer. Allow me to wish the town of Merrimack a happy anniversary, and I appreciate the opportunity to be included in its celebration. It is an honor to represent the town of Merrimack in the U.S. Congress.

TACTILE CURRENCY FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. BAKER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that encourages the Bureau of Printing and Engraving to consider making Federal Reserve Notes tactually identifiable by the blind and visually impaired. This legislation enjoys considerable bipartisan support from my colleagues on the House Committee on Banking as well as other Members who share the same interests in assisting visually impaired individuals exert their independence.

In March 1994, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing commissioned the National Academy of Science to execute a study entitled "Current Features for Visually Impaired People." This recently published study explores methods of making currency more accessible for all Americans.

The report concluded that the needs of the blind could be better served if further study on specific changes such as size, color, and tactile marks be initiated.

Currently, the Department of the Treasury is engaged in efforts to redesign the Federal Reserve Note to prevent counterfeiting. Indeed, the new \$100 bill is prepared to be issued nationwide right now. With this window of opportunity upon us, I believe Congress has the chance to assist the millions of visually impaired Americans who strive to live independently by marking their money more accessible to them.

My bill simply endorses the efforts of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving to study cost-effective tactile changes in Federal Reserve Notes and encourages the incorporation of those change in the national currency.

My bill does not cost the Federal Government any money, nor does it impose any undue, unfair mandates.

Such a minor change in currency will have a significant impact on the independence of visually impaired Americans. Further, a tactual mark can serve other purposes, such as being an additional counterfeit deterrent.

Visually impaired individuals are capable, independent people whose valuable contributions touch all of our lives. It is important that all Americans are afforded equal opportunities to perform at the best of their abilities. My bill stresses that importance. I hope all Members will join me to pass this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO FRED DUVAL

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I read in last week's newspapers of the resignation of Fred Duval as Deputy Chief of Protocol of the United States. This is a loss for the Department of State and the U.S. Government.

Protocol is one of those things in this town many of us take for granted. It is practiced in the breach. If it's done well, it is hardly noticed. If it is done poorly, it could have major ramifications for relations between our country and others.

In the United States, Protocol is responsible for overseeing the visits of foreign royalty, chiefs of state, heads of government, and foreign ministers. It is responsible for overseeing many ceremonial events including meals, events at Arlington Cemetery, major diplomatic gatherings, et cetera, for selecting Presidential gifts, and the administration of the Blair House. Protocol is also responsible for the accreditation of the diplomatic community, and the selection of Presidential delegations abroad.

During his almost 3 years of service, DuVal has hosted emirs, emperors, and over 120 heads of government. He spent 12 days as the host of the Emperor and Empress of Japan. He played a major role in a number of mega-events such as the PLO-Israel peace signing ceremony in September 1993, the Israel-Jordanian peace signing ceremony in Jordan, the Nixon state funeral, the Atlanta Olympics, and the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, where over 120 heads of government attended.

DuVal is widely admired and well-liked in the diplomatic community where he is often representing the President at evening embassy events, and is thought of in the State Department as one of the strongest and the most effective people to ever hold his position as Chief Deputy of Protocol.

Before coming to Washington, Mr. Duval was a constituent of mine in Arizona and has for many years been a friend.

He will be missed at the State Department, and it is as a tribute to him that I ask unanimous consent to place James Morrison's article from the Washington Times announcing his departure in the RECORD.

RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS VIENNA PRIZE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, next week, a truly extraordinary American will become only the second American in history to be awarded the Vienna Prize by the Dr. Karl Renner Foundation. In recognition of his lifelong efforts on behalf of the human rights of the citizens of the world, Rabbi Arthur Schneier will receive this coveted award and a grant of \$20,000 from the mayor of Vienna, Dr. Michael Haupl.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier is internationally known for his leadership on behalf of human rights and religious freedom. A group of distinguished citizens of Vienna, including the mayor, members of the city Senate, and prominent members of the community, have chosen Rabbi Schneier for this honor because he is an international role model for the promotion of democratic societies.

Rabbi Schneier joins with President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia as the only non-Austrians to receive this distinguished award. By virtue of his international standing, Rabbi Schneier, as with President Havel, has promoted the ideas of democracy and freedom to the furthest reaches of the globe.

As founder and president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, Rabbi Schneier has met with Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers, as well as religious leaders in the former Soviet Union, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Romania, Argentina, Cuba, Israel, Egypt, Morocco, Bulgaria, Germany, England, Ireland, the Vatican, and Turkey.

Since 1965, when he led a group of political and religious leaders for an Appeal of Conscience rally protesting religious repression in the Soviet Union, he has championed the cause of religious freedom around the world. After the 1965 rally, he established the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, which continues to this day to provide effective and influential leadership on behalf of human rights.

The Appeal of Conscience Foundation and Rabbi Schneier have been involved in a wide range of the world's most intractable problems and most egregious human rights violations. From meeting with Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev to discuss United States-Russian relations to meetings with Presidents of Bosnia, Serbia, and Croatia to discuss a lasting peace in that troubled region, Rabbi Schneier has taken it upon himself to provide inspirational and effective leadership that has won him worldwide praise, including the prestigious Vienna Prize.

It brings me great pleasure to rise today to honor this exceptional religious leader on the occasion of his receiving this most deserved award. I invite my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation for his extraordinary efforts.

FIGHT TERRORISM, BUT DON'T DAMAGE INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, we all have been shocked and horrified by the acts of terrorism in Oklahoma City, in New York City, in Israel, London, Tokyo, and elsewhere.

The painful loss of innocent lives leaves us with a terrible sense of vulnerability that tears away at our peace of mind.

There are laws on the books that prosecute terrorists for the violent acts they commit—the World Trade Center bombing trial and the trial that will soon get underway in Denver, CO, show us that. We should also carefully strengthen our ability to prevent these acts of terror. But this bill doesn't get us where we need to go.

As Anthony Lewis wrote Monday in the New York Times:

Terrorism has a cost beyond its menace to life and peace. A democratic society, feeling threatened, may put aside legal norms and adopt authoritarian measures. It may fear freedom.

This approach doesn't take us forward. It takes us back to the now-discredited ideas of the McCarthy Era, and even more recently, to the intimidating FBI interviews with Arab-American leaders during the gulf war about their supposed knowledge of possible terrorist activities, and to the "LA 8" case with its attendant revelation of secret Justice Department contingency plans for the mass roundup, internment, and deportation of Arab nationals.

When this bill first came to the floor, it would have given us selective prosecution, more wiretaps, more domestic counterintelligence, deportation of political asylum seekers, and secret evidence to be used in secret trials. While some of these problems have been corrected, the bill is still fatally flawed.

We are debating this issue in tense times, with the recent bombings in Israel still fresh in our minds. These were terrible tragedies, and we should respond, but we should do so with clear minds, with a view that values the liberties that so many have fought and died for over our history as a nation.

Mr. Speaker, let us not cast freedom aside and allow fear to prevail. We can do better than this bill, and we must, for our liberty and our safety depend on it.

WOMEN IN HEALTH CARE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of all women in the health care field.

As the health care industry continues to change dramatically and rapidly, these professionals remain steadfast in their dedication to the well-being of the aged and infirm. They work hard to keep up with the changing market, while unfailingly remaining committed to helping the sick.

And no matter what their position, everyone contributes in an essential way. I honor the efforts made by all women in all roles in providing the best quality work toward meeting the needs of patients.

When I read today the Northern New Jersey Visiting Nurses Association's newsletter, I was reminded of the challenges facing our health care workers. Their mission: Keeping people healthy by providing quality community health service by skilled and caring individuals and promoting the health and well-being of the entire community.

Nursing in particular demands such a broad array of skills and knowledge combined with attributes of compassion and commitment. From many of the health care professionals with whom I am acquainted, I know of the extraordinary job they do at continually re-educating themselves in medicine, disease, and an ever-changing, high-technology environment, while never losing sight of their most important responsibility—the health and well-being of their patients.

This sense of duty is astonishing. I was recently told of a home health aide who during the January blizzard, when so many of us were home and safe, walked a couple of miles through 5-foot snowdrifts to care for her patient and walked home. I was told of the health workers who stayed 2 or 3 consecutive days working extra shifts at the hospital to meet the needs of patients. Mr. Speaker, I applaud them.

These are truly multitalented individuals who fill an essential role in our communities. Their job not only requires strong leadership and skill, but also a heart and soul unfamiliar to many of us. Today I rise to honor them—those individuals who help us stay healthy and serve us when in need.

LEGISLATION AMENDING THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to allow professional services firms which contract with the Federal Government to pay their professional employees on an hourly basis or a salary basis, without defeating their exemption from overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The FLSA exempts from overtime requirements professional employees who meet a duties test laid out by the Department of Labor's regulations under the act. Professional employees must also be paid on a salary basis, meaning that they must be paid on a salary or fee basis but not on the basis of number of hours worked. If the employee does not meet the duties test for a professional or the salary basis test, the Department of Labor and the courts have held that the employee is not exempt from overtime and therefore must be paid time-and-a-half for all hours worked over 40 within a 7-day period.

When the Federal Government contracts with private firms for professional services, most requests for proposals for such contracts require that the contractor submit bids as to the fee for the professional services that are based on hourly rates. However, because the contractor must bid the contracts on an hourly basis and, as a practical matter, calculate the pay of the professional employees working on the contract on an hourly basis, these employees may not meet the requirements for the overtime exemption under the act.

In addition to adversely affecting contractors, the salary basis requirement under the regulations can have the effect of requiring overtime pay for well-compensated, highly skilled employees, many of whom are lawyers, certified public accountants and financial analysts—simply because the employer compensates the employee on an hourly basis, as opposed to a salary basis.

This legislation will enable those firms contracting with the Federal Government to pay their employees in the manner which meets the requirements of the contract without running afoul of the FLSA.

EAST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL'S OVERALL EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. FRANK TEJEDA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. TEJEDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to East Central High School, a school in my district, for being recognized by Redbook magazine for overall excellence in its America's Best Schools Project competition. East Central High School is 1 of 63 schools nationwide recognized for its overall excellence in academics and extra-curricular activities.

This distinction truly an accomplishment for which everyone connected to East Central High School should be proud. I applaud the faculty, school administrators, and staff for their dedication beyond the call of duty to provide the best education to their students. This